manage the affairs of his own department, in a manner which would be approved of by the legislature, the Dewan would be able to think out large schemes for the benefit of the people.

The popular institutions of the State were not efficient. That was not because the people were not fit to exercise power, but because Government would not let them have it in any appreciable measure. For instance, when the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly was established, it was invested with some powers, but in the course of a few years its powers were crippled. Subjects which it was allowed to discuss in its infancy were later on tabooed. The question of reforming the institution should be taken up and solved in a manner acceptable to the people. The Assembly should be co-ordinated with the Council and should have a voice in legislation and finance.

In conclusion, the member expressed the hope that the peoples' aspirations would be appreciated and their demands granted as a genuine Travancorean was at the helm of administration.

193. Responsible Government in Travancore.

MR. NARAYANA PILLAI VISVANATHA PILLAI (*Quilon taluk, Group I*) said that the head of the administration was not responsible to the people of the country. Further, the administration often fell into the hands of foreign Dewans who did not care for the best interests of the country. In consequence, the Government stood, for decades together, with no policy and no plan for ordering the affairs of the State. In face of the challenging problem of unemployment among the educated classes and in matters like the industrial development of the country and the reform of the Sir Mulam Popular Assembly, the Government stood almost helpless, waiting for something to happen. The Inter-portal Trade Convention, the Periyar lease, the assignment of the Kanan Devan Hills and the participation in the Cochin Harbour Scheme were typical examples of how the Government moved. It was high time therefore that the people's representatives were associated directly with the task of administration. Further, the burden of administration had grown so enormously in recent years that it could not be borne by one man.

The member referred to some aspects of administration which, in his opinion, were worthy of mention. Public service was not inspired by patriotism. The very low pay of departmental subordinates fostered corruption. Primary education was not made compulsory. The school curriculum did not contain provision for agricultural and technical education. Nothing was done to check the fall in exports and the increase in imports.

The member then suggested that experts should be got down for the manufacture of rubber tyres and tubes, candles, glassware, sugar-soap, lamps, etc. in the State. A Commercial Agent should be appointed in London. Action should be taken on the reports of the Unemployment Committee and the University Committee. The Village Panchayat

Regulation should be brought into force. An Executive Council should be constituted to divest the Dewan of a part of his onerous responsibilities. The Legislative Council should have a non-official President.

194. Reform of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and other administrative reforms.

MR. N. MADHAVAN NAYAR (*Trivandrum taluk, Group II*) said that, among the measures introduced in the State during the last 40 years to advance the prosperity of the people, the establishment of representative institutions like the Municipal Councils, the Legislative Council and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly was the most important. The achievements of the last-mentioned institution were manifold. Almost every important measure of public utility, whether it was the separation of the Revenue Department and Devaswoms, the Christian Succession Act, the Nair Regulation or the Ezhava Regulation, was first suggested and pressed upon the attention of Government by the representatives of the people in the Assembly. The Assembly was based on an executive order of Government. To enhance the extent of its usefulness, it was necessary that the Assembly should be reconstituted on a statutory basis with wider powers and privileges.

The representatives of the people had been requesting Government for nearly five years to reform and reconstitute the Assembly. Accordingly, a revised constitution was drafted during the time of Dewan Mr. Raghaviah. That draft constitution was severely criticised by the public. Government thereupon appointed a committee consisting of a few members of the Legislative Council to consider the draft constitution and report how the Assembly could be remodelled. The committee tendered its resignation shortly after, as the terms of reference were too narrow. Four years ago, a memorial signed by more than 90 per cent. of the members of the Assembly was presented to Government praying for the reconstitution of the Assembly and suggesting certain lines of reform. No orders were passed on the memorial. A representative committee should be appointed to draw up a reformed constitution for the Assembly.

The enormous growth in the work of administration had thrown an overwhelming volume of work on the head of the administration who could therefore spare neither time nor energy for the initiation of reforms. The Dewan's work should be reduced by the creation of an Executive Council responsible to the people.

The unemployment problem necessitated the revision of the educational policy of Government. The English and vernacular schools should be amalgamated and the Vernacular School Leaving Examination abolished. That would reduce the unemployment problem to some extent.

The Education Department should be placed under a Board or Council consisting of three or four members including non-officials. The work of the department had grown enormously in recent years.